



The 2000 Master Plan for Higher Education

WASHINGTON
STATE
HIGHER

What the Master Plan Means for Education

The 2000 Master Plan for Higher Education in Washington State proposes significant change in order to meet citizens' growing need for education and training after high school. The Master Plan suggests that if educating students is the state's top priority for higher education, then we should place the interests of students at the center of higher education decision-making. If the Legislature approves the 2000 Master Plan and embraces its recommendations, then we would see fundamental change in the way Washington educates its citizens:

Better Service to Students

- Students could readily transfer course credits from institution to institution, two-year to four-year school, and public to private.
- Students could enroll in and take courses from a number of institutions — public or private, in-state or out — at the same time.
- Students would progress toward their education goals based on what they know and can do, rather than on how old they are or the degrees they have.
- All learners who seek a college education would have the opportunity to go to school.

A Sharper Focus on Performance

- Students would be evaluated based on what they know and can do, rather than on how much time they've spent in class or how many credits they've accumulated.

- Learners returning to college for credentials or additional training could be granted credit toward a degree based on what they know and are able to do.
- Employers would know exactly what knowledge and skill levels to expect from employees with associate and baccalaureate degrees.

Smarter Consumers

- By giving learners and their families clear, simple information when they need it, we will create informed "consumers" of higher education. Smart consumers make smart decisions — and that's good for everyone.

Reaching Those Who Most Need Help

- Students and their families would learn early what it takes to go to college — and why it would benefit them and their communities. Today, students get information about what courses they need and how much money it takes to go to college when they're in high school — about 12 years too late.
- Learners in rural areas could go to school without leaving jobs and families, because our colleges and universities would collaborate effectively and embrace distance learning technology.
- Hardworking Washington citizens could go to school on the schedule that suited them best — even if that were at home and at night after the children had been put to bed.

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BOARD

917 Lakeridge Way SW
P.O. Box 43430
Olympia, WA 98504-3430
Phone: (360) 753-7800
Fax: (360) 753-7808
Email: info@hecw.wa.gov
www.hecw.wa.gov

A Bigger Bang for the Buck

- Colleges and universities would move money from lowest to highest priority functions without being punished by the state budgeting system.
- Institutions quickly would make room in or develop courses in high demand by students and business, instead of simply tightening admission requirements for existing courses.
- Public and private schools and business would aggressively seek partnerships that make resources go further, serve students better, or increase the quality of learning.
- Washington employers would save money by no longer having to leave the state to recruit employees or even relocate to get the educated people they need.